

AVIATION NONSENSE.

Why should any aviator at this stage talk flying across the Atlantic in 30 or any number of hours? If he feels impelled to try a 3,000-mile flight in a dirigible or an aeroplane, why does he not turn westward, where there is plenty of solid earth to land on? There may be men somewhat foolhardy enough to attempt the flight from Newfoundland to Ireland. It is a sure and easy way of achieving passing notoriety and incidentally of committing suicide by drowning, says the New York World. There will be time enough to talk of crossing the ocean in an aeroplane when this continent has been traversed by air without alighting. Back of this nonsense about flying across the Atlantic is the misfortune that the business of aviation has fallen so largely into the hands of showmen. They are interested chiefly in doing "stunts" for the sake of the advertising and future gate receipts. It is becoming a question whether practical advances will be made in the science of aviation in this country except the government take it up seriously for military purposes, as has been done in France.

The suggestion of Prof. George D. Baker, of Harvard, head of the Drama League, of Boston, that American audiences should indicate their disapproval of plays and players by hissing, is received by producers with disapproval, naturally, and is not likely to win much favor with the playgoer. The qualifications of the one who hisses must be examined before we will grant him the privilege, and not even a certificate from the Drama League that such and such persons are equipped with critical judgment and are able to reach safe and sound opinions will be sufficient warrant for a commission to hiss. It is imaginable that the tired business man might find most earnest and sincere objection to a play which was giving the Drama League keen intellectual enjoyment, says the Chicago Tribune. It might be dangerous to commission them to hiss, and if the Drama League hissed a play which the tired business man was enjoying, it probably would find itself on its head outside the main door. The hiss will not help the drama uplift. Empty seats are the best protests against undesirable, bad or banal plays.

If the army gets more aeroplanes it will have to call them airplanes. At least the appropriation bill reported by the house committee on military affairs calls the things airplanes, and airplanes, therefore, are the only things that can pull money away from the public treasury—unless congress alters the wording of the bill. It appears that a sensitive representative from Texas objects to the word "aeroplane," and will not be satisfied with anything less than "airplane," which he says means the same thing. In the interests of the simple life, by all means call the things airplanes.

France is soon to have the first aerial regiment ever organized. Not all the members can, for the present, take the air at once, but an appropriation is to be asked for buying enough aeroplanes to bring the total up to 1,000, of four different sorts. The yearly cost of keeping this service efficient is estimated at \$4,000,000; the cost in lives is not so easy to reckon.

That St. Petersburg is rapidly growing in population is evidenced by the census taken in December, 1910, which showed the population, including certain suburban villages formerly not covered, to be 1,907,708. It is pre-eminently an "office town" and also a seaport for six or eight months of the year. The principal industry is the manufacture of cotton textiles, although its advantage as a port of entry for the interior is gaining recognition. A line of steamers has been established to Libau, connecting there with a trans-Atlantic line to New York. This enables American shippers to send goods direct to this port without the delays of trans-shipment in foreign ports.

A Kansas professor thinks that courses on child-rearing should be introduced into our colleges. He is quite right in his criticism that, while we pay a great deal of attention to the breeding of live stock, we give practically none to the more important matter of breeding children.

A flock of wild geese raced a fast passenger train in Tennessee and came out winners. They went into such a contest mainly, perhaps, because they were geese, yet they had more reason on their side than the human variety of their kind.

Aviator Latham has started for the Congo with a monoplane and a big game hunting outfit. Will Latham bag the game, or will the aeroplane bag Latham?

Mourning Millinery



NEW models from Paris in mourning millinery show a degree of style and smartness which is hard to achieve in any apparel having less individuality than this special class. A turban and a hat, both designed for a widow, are pictured here. They are wonderful examples of this class of millinery. The turban, which might more consistently be called a turban-bonnet, is as simple in outline as possible and covered with English crape drawn smoothly over the crown. Its distinction lies in the graceful draping and great length of the beautiful veil. A width of crape, two yards long, is finished with a hem set on at the bottom a quarter of a yard deep. The other end is wound about the turban frame, exactly in the fashion of an Oriental turban. The crape veil thus provides drapery for the turban, a scarf about the shoulders and the regulation widow's veil, all in one. A rucho is not worn with this crape tur-

ban, but is in evidence in toques and bonnets when there is a preference for it.

The beautiful sailor shape with square crown and rolling brim, is covered with a dull-finished black silk. A band of crape as wide as the crown is laid smoothly about it. A broad crape bow is poised across the front with a crape-covered buckle at its center.

The long crape veil laid in a double box plait and sewed to the under brim, close to the head, is a purely decorative feature, although it may be worn about the neck in a scarf-like manner. This fashion of wearing the drape like a throw about the neck may bring about a lengthening of the veil. It is a very graceful fashion. Since crape is manufactured so that it is waterproof, it is as useful, indeed, more useful, than fabrics not so protected, and may be used more freely than ever before.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

COAT FOR YOUNG GIRL



Austrian blue cloth makes a smart little coat in this style. The long revers, which is continued quite to foot of coat, is faced with black satin to within half an inch of edge; it is also cut out about the bust line to show the material facing on which are sewn three small satin-covered buttons. The cuffs are to match. A belt of material stitched at edge is worn at waist-line. Hat of black beaver with quills at side.

Materials required for coat, 2 3/4 yards 50 inches wide, 1 yard satin 20 inches wide.

New Flame Color.

A positive furore is noticeable now for flame colors. The glowing red tones that are seen in the feathered hats of the winter season are repeated in the ballroom, where flame, carnation, rhododendron, rose, cerise and currant shades make vivid splashes of color.

In simple lustrous velvet, softened about the bodice by silver lace or cream net, these red frocks are especially effective for midwinter entertainments, and while the dowagers and young married women choose this fabric and satin the debutantes appear in chiffon and mousseline de soie that are equally bright, in some cases made up over white and usually touched with silver, crystal or cut steel embellishments.

SEPARATE SKIRT A NECESSITY

Many Materials From Which to Choose, but Garment Must Be in One's Wardrobe.

If you would profit by the example of French tailors, you will order separate skirts of one of the following materials:

First, a double-faced cloth that has leaped into important place is being used. It practically trims itself, and will be very popular for this economical reason.

Then there are chevots and serges for lightweight models, and all colors are in vogue, the neutral shades and dark blue leading.

Heavy fancy suitings are very popular. The English tweeds and mixed suitings are having a tremendous favoritism shown them by the leading houses.

Tailored skirts are not so straight in outline, many showing slashed effects at the side, and all are made walking length.

Some have a slightly raised waistband, so that no belt is needed, while others show a normal line, with a stitched band attached to the skirt. On others, a back panel is attached with a modified front edge that extends toward the front, thus forming a belt or girdle.

MATCH THE HAIR AND EYES

Appropriate Touch of Color in the Toilette Adds Immensely to the Appearance.

To be becomingly dressed is the desire of every woman worthy of the name, and here I would say one is greatly helped towards this end if in one's toilette a touch of color to match the hair and eyes is introduced. It accentuates one's "points." For example, an ideal dress frock for a lark-haired girl would be a pale green shot with mauve crepe de soie. This emphasizes the black hair and brown eyes of the wearer.

To the woman with brown hair which has golden lights one commends the new color, which is of greenish gold. And as hair of this color is frequently accompanied by gray eyes, which almost invariably have a yellowish halo around the iris, this is the color for her.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Water Softener.

One of the best water-softeners for winter use is that of a mixture of almond meal, powdered borax, and oatmeal. These powders should be sifted together and then enclosed in small muslin bags.

Ecru Silk Veils.

Veils of ecru silk lace with a wide mesh are being shown in Paris, and are more becoming than the white ones to women with a dark skin.

HAPPENINGS IN THE CITIES

Deserter's Story Preserved in Stone



SCRANTON, PA.—After lying buried in the roots of a tree for more than a century, it is thought, a stone tablet bearing the confession of a revolutionary soldier's infamy has been found by William Sherer of this city. Sherer is a cripple, and, while wandering through the woods, near Rattlesnake Pond, in Spring Brook township, he accidentally brushed away the dirt from a piece of flagstone that caught his attention.

When the coating was removed the following inscription was exposed to Sherer's astonished eyes: "My name is John Nair. Born in 1747. I ran away from the battle of Brandywine in 1777."

With Sherer when he made this interesting discovery were John Hartman and Harry and Louise Pilger. They viewed the find with bulging eyes and finally aided Sherer in a closer inspection. When the tablet was tilted on one side the excited group discovered a small pocket in the other side. Pebbles were packed tightly into the slit, and when they were removed an instrument resembling a nail was revealed. It was about three and a half inches long and it had evidently been used to chronicle the history of John Nair's shame. The stone is of strange oblong shape, about ten inches at its greatest length and seven inches across. Its thickness is about three inches. The inscription covers three-fourths of the smooth face of the stone, and the lettering is wonderfully plain. The letters are uniformly an inch high and an eighth of an inch deep.

Among the hundreds of persons who have viewed the tablet in a central city display window, there is no doubt that the inscription is genuine. The letters are the same color as the stone, a light brown, and there is a suggestion of freshness. It is generally believed that the carving was done soon after the historic incident mentioned in the inscription. It is a peculiar coincidence that Sherer made his discovery almost on the anniversary of the battle of Brandywine. The battle was fought Sept. 11, 1777, 134 years ago.

It is thought that John Nair, a deserter from the continental army, journeyed northward toward the Connecticut settlements and stopped to rest under the tree. In those days the nearest settlement to Rattlesnake Pond was historic Wyoming, about 25 miles to the south, and this region was a wilderness. In the quiet of the forest the fugitive probably yielded to a gnawing of conscience and wrote his confession upon the tablet. Whether he lived to tell it with his lips will probably never be known.

Keeps Ants in Bottle for Ten Years

CLEVELAND, OHIO.—Away up in the tower of St. Ignatius college, where is situated the observatory and the sanatorium of Father Odenbach, astronomer, are several hundred ants that have lived ten years in a bottle corked with an aluminum stopper, without any food save small pieces of sound quarter-sawn wood moistened with water.

This somewhat unpalatable ration is served to the ants by Father Odenbach about once a month. And although commonly known as "white ants," the most destructive to wood, particularly to oak, of any known insects, they are really not ants at all, but termites and members of the "darning needle" family.

The bottle is nearly covered on the inside by a slimy, cement-like excrement given out by the insects in moving about. The bottle has been changed once during the ten years, and then because that which they first occupied was accidentally broken by the savant.

The particular "ants" Father Odenbach has come from Florida. Many have died, but others have been born, the number remaining about the same.



The bodies of those who die are eaten by the survivors and it is not infrequent for some of the insects to kill one another by the cannibalistic method.

Several instances where a species of the termites, differing but little from those in the bottle, has nearly caused great havoc and loss of life in Cleveland buildings, were given by Professor Odenbach. In one dry goods store he found the oak uprights supporting an entire department under which a number of girls were working, almost eaten through by the omnivorous insects.

Another case was that of a machine shop where uprights supporting the roof, pulleys and shafting had been hollowed out by the termites. They have a penchant for paper—it is like ice cream and cake to them, Father Odenbach says.

Wealthy Thief Erratic Since His Duel



NEW YORK.—Matthew W. Harbeson, son of the millionaire founder of the brick trust and great-grandson of Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was sent to jail for thirty days for stealing a loaf of bread, has been "erratic" ever since he fought a duel many years ago, his mother declared.

Recorder Medina, in Woodcliffe, N. J., sentenced Harbeson on complaint of a grocer who saw him take a loaf from his bread box.

Harbeson, who married a maid in his mother's household, has five children and lives in one of the show places in Woodcliffe, which his mother bought for him.

"Matthew has not been well since he was wounded in a duel at Kiel university, where he studied many years," said Mrs. Harbeson. "It was the custom then to fight with schlagers. He was the best swordsman in the university, and, to use a slang expression, was the 'goat' whenever his college had been offered an insult by another university."

"The most serious duel, the one in which he received so vicious a cut that the removal of a part of his skull was necessitated, arose when a German student insisted the Rhine was wider than the Hudson river. There were hot words and a challenge resulted."

"There was no reason for my son's act other than his ill health, which has made him a trifle erratic. I have given him a good monthly income, besides paying all his running expenses and the interest on his property. I think his eccentricities are due to the many wounds he received in his duels. He fought thirty-seven in all. He shall go to him at once and see what can be done. I deplore this notoriety. It hurts me terribly."

These Dancers Must Don Diving Suits

LOS ANGELES.—Society women of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Pasadena are planning a fete on the bottom of the ocean off Catalina Island early this spring. It is such a party that even Rome in its greatest days never saw the equal.

Walter Howison Pritchard, marine artist, is arranging details, and, according to him, guests are to be attired in diving suits, each with an oxygen tank or air tubes.

Catalina Island has been chosen for the affair because of the extraordinary clearness of the water and remarkable marine gardens at the bottom of the sea.

The bottom of the ocean will be illuminated by electric bulbs, and by a unique arrangement music from a band on a yacht anchored overhead will be conveyed through the water, acting as a sounding board.

The "turkey trot" and three entirely new dances, the "mermaid dip," the "lobster claw" and the "flany wiggle," will be danced by the guests to the strains of the band.

If possible a real mermaid will be secured to take part in the "dip." There will be no trouble getting lobsters for the "claw" dance, it is said.

"Reggie" Van Toole, popular as a cotton leader, has composed a catchy waltz named "My Submarine Sue," which will be played for the first time in marine public.

A light repast will be served on sea shells, the food being made waterproof by incasing it in a thin coating of gelatine. Rubber pipes run from the yacht above will convey liquid refreshment to the guests, who can connect with a cocktail or cordial by giving the correct signal.

Well, then," demanded Helen, "what was it he used to do?"—Lippincott's Magazine.

Particularly the Ladies.

Not only pleasant and refreshing to the taste, but gently cleansing and sweetening to the system, Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna is particularly adapted to ladies and children, and beneficial in all cases in which a wholesome, strengthening and effective laxative should be used. It is perfectly safe at all times and dispels colds, headaches and the pains caused by indigestion and constipation so promptly and effectively that it is the one perfect family laxative which gives satisfaction to all and is recommended by millions of families who have used it and who have personal knowledge of its excellence.

Its wonderful popularity, however, has led unscrupulous dealers to offer imitations which act unsatisfactorily. Therefore, when buying, to get its beneficial effects, always note the full name of the Company—California Fig Syrup Co.—plainly printed on the front of every package of the genuine Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna.

For sale by all leading druggists. Price 50 cents per bottle.

A man feels as ill at ease in a dry goods store as a woman does in a tobacco shop.

For liver and kidney troubles, nothing is quite so mild, pleasant and effective as Garfield Tea.

An Alarmist.

"Jibcock is a very disquieting individual."

"Indeed he is. Jibcock seems to have been born with no other purpose in life than to yell 'Fire!'"

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it

Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* In Use For Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

Conclusive Proof.

"That expression, a 'human dynamo' fascinates me."

"It is very apt and vivid when applied to a man of boundless energy."

"Tackbiters must be a 'human dynamo.'"

"Why do you think so?"

"No matter how cold the morning is, he leaps out of bed without ever stopping to think the matter over."

Modern Methods.

The late A. Tennyson Dickens, during an interview in Chicago, condemned the war in Tripoli vehemently.

"Slavery," he said, with a bitter smile, "is now abolished. We no longer steal a people and sell them into bondage. No, no, indeed. We just steal their country and charge them so much for governing it that they have to work twice as hard as slaves to pay their taxes."

Papa's Past.

Little Helen's mamma was discussing the drink question with a visitor and the child listened gravely to the conversation.

"Papa used to drink," she volunteered suddenly.

The visitor turned her head to conceal a smile, and mamma frowned and shook her head at the little one.

"Well, then," demanded Helen, "what was it he used to do?"—Lippincott's Magazine.

A Beautiful Decline.

Ollie James, the gigantic and genial congressman and senator-elect from Kentucky, was in conversation the other day with a Washingtonian when the latter made certain inquiries with reference to a mutual friend whom he had not seen for a number of years.

"And how does Col. Prescott spend his declining years?" he asked.

"Beautifully, sir; beautifully!" answered James. "He has a fine farm, sir. A string of trotters, sir. And a barrel of whisky 16 years old—and a wife of the same age, sir!"

A WOMAN DOCTOR

Was Quick to See That Coffee Poison Was Doing the Mischief.

A lady tells of a bad case of coffee poisoning, and tells it in a way so simple and straightforward that literary skill could not improve it.

"I had neuralgic headaches for 12 years," she says, "and have suffered untold agony. When I first began to have them I weighed 140 pounds, but they brought me down to 110."

"I went to many doctors and they gave me only temporary relief. So I suffered on, till one day, a woman doctor advised me to drink Postum. She said I looked like I was coffee poisoned."

"So I began to drink Postum, and gained 15 pounds in the first few weeks and am still gaining, but not so fast as at first. My headaches began to leave me after I had used Postum about two weeks—long enough, I expect, to get the coffee poison out of my system."

"Now that a few months have passed since I began to use Postum, I can gladly say that I never know what a neuralgic headache is like any more, and it was nothing but Postum that relieved me."

"Before I used Postum I never went out alone; I would get bewildered and would not know which way to turn. Now I go alone and my head is as clear as a bell. My brain and nerves are stronger than they have been for years." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

"There's a reason," and it is explained in the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.